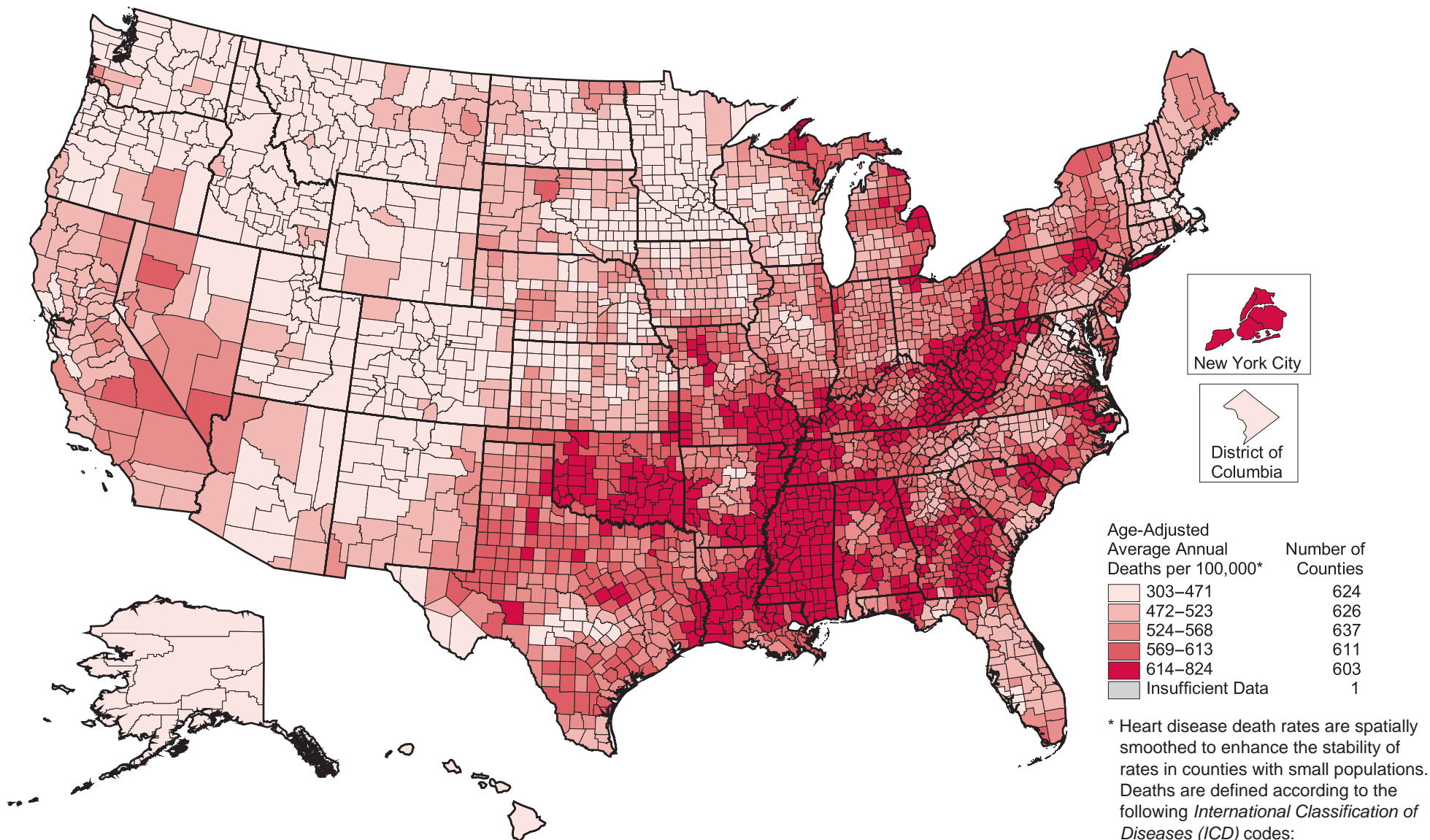


Heart Disease Death Rates, 1996–2000 Adults Ages 35 Years and Older, by County



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
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Data Sources: National Vital Statistics System, CDC, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Heart Disease Facts

in the United States

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both women and men in the United States.*
 - In 2001, a total of 700,142 people died of heart disease (52% of them women), accounting for 29% of all U.S. deaths. The age-adjusted death rate was 246 per 100,000 population.[†]
 - Heart disease is the leading cause of death for American Indians and Alaska Natives, blacks, Hispanics, and whites. Although cancer is the leading cause of death for Asians and Pacific Islanders (accounting for 26.4% of all deaths), heart disease is a very close second (25.4%).[†]
 - Heart disease death rates per 100,000 population for the five largest U.S. racial/ethnic groups are as follows: American Indians, 79; Asians and Pacific Islanders, 77; blacks, 210; Hispanics, 73; and whites, 263.[†]
 - In 2004, heart disease is projected to cost \$238.6 billion, including health care services, medications, and lost productivity.[§]
 - Studies among people with heart disease have shown that lowering high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure can reduce the risk of dying of heart disease, having a nonfatal heart attack, and needing heart bypass surgery or angioplasty.
 - Studies among people without heart disease have shown that lowering high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure can reduce the risk of developing heart disease.
- * For this fact sheet, the term "heart disease" refers to the broadest category of "diseases of the heart" as defined by the *International Classification of Diseases* and used by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. This category includes acute rheumatic fever, chronic rheumatic heart disease, hypertensive heart disease, coronary heart disease, pulmonary heart disease, congestive heart failure, and any other heart condition or disease.
- [†] Deaths: Leading Causes for 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 2003;52(9).
- [§] *Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2004 Update*. American Heart Association; 2003.

CDC Activities to Reduce the Burden of Heart Disease

CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program

CDC currently funds health departments in 32 states and the District of Columbia to develop, implement, and evaluate programs that promote heart-healthy and stroke-free communities; prevent and control heart disease, stroke, and their risk factors; and eliminate disparities among populations. These programs emphasize the use of education, policies, environmental strategies, and systems changes to address heart disease and stroke in various settings and to ensure quality of care. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/cvh/stateprogram.htm>.

Women and Heart Disease: An Atlas of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mortality and Men and Heart Disease: An Atlas of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mortality

These two publications present an extensive series of national and state maps depicting disparities in county-level heart disease death rates among the five largest U.S. racial and ethnic groups. This information can help health professionals and concerned citizens tailor prevention policies and programs to communities with the highest death rates for heart disease. Interactive versions of the atlases are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/cvh/maps>.

For more information, visit the following Web sites:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
American Heart Association
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

<http://www.cdc.gov/cvh>
<http://www.americanheart.org>
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov>

Note: Web site addresses of nonfederal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. Provision of an address does not constitute an endorsement of this organization by CDC or the federal government, and none should be inferred. CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages.